

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Examiner's Action mailed May 25, 2006, and is being submitted within 3 months following the shortened statutory period set for response by the Examiner (on August 28, 2006, the Monday following the Saturday on which the 25<sup>th</sup> falls). No extension of time is requested or required.


Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowability of claims 1-7 and 16-20, as well as the Examiner's graciously granting, on short notice, a telephonic interview on August 23, 2006 in which the rejection of claims 10-15 was discussed and a possible modification to the recitations of those claims, but no agreement was reached regarding any approach applicants might take to overcome the rejection.

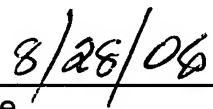
By this paper, applicants are directing the cancellation of claims 10-15, and are further directing the cancellation of claims 8 and 9, drawn to the non-elected invention. Applicants, however, are not abandoning, and retain, their right to submit a continuing application, if so desired, containing the subject matter of the cancelled claims.

Applicants now respectfully solicit the Examiner to issue a Notice of Allowance in this application.

If the Examiner has any questions or requires further information or explanation, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of applicants,

  
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